

Homelessness Prevention

A Presentation

By

Beyond Shelter

“Housing – A Basic Human Right”



Magnolia Place: Multi-Service Center



■ **Public Counsel will work with**

- **DPSS**
- **DCFS**
- **Children's Bureau**
- **St. John's**
- **Para Los Niños**



Magnolia's Goals: Stabilize and Empower

- 1) Diminish out-of-pocket expenditures on health, dental care and mental health services
- 2) Maximize the income sources of at risk households
- 3) Assist families by protecting against displacement and becoming victimized of consumer fraud and predatory lenders



Factors that put Households at Risk of Homelessness

- ❑ **Uneducated (Due Process)**
- ❑ **Trust**
- ❑ **Victim of Predatory Lending**
 - **Illegal Usurious Loans**
 - **Notario Fraud**
 - **Negotiations (Spanish) and Contract (English)**



What Consequences May a Displacement or Eviction Cause Families?



- ❑ Mental / Health Problems
- ❑ Loss of Sense of Security
- ❑ Higher Incidence of PTSD
- ❑ Pregnant Woman
 - Higher likelihood that baby will have developmental delay



How Can Public Counsel Help?



“PC TANDEM”

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Social Worker + Pro Bono Attorney



Social Worker

- ❑ **Evaluate if any member in Household has an Undiagnosed Disability and is Eligible for Public Benefits:**
 - **SSI**
 - **Proposition 63**
 - **Regional Center Services**
 - **Veteran's Benefits**

- ❑ **Provide Cal-Work members with assistance**
 - **Entering Workforce**
 - **Child Care**
 - **Early Childhood**

cont'd



Social Worker Cont'd...

- ❑ **Ensure Low-Wage Income Earners Access**
 - **Earned Income Tax Credits**
- ❑ **Evaluate if Children are in need of Special Education**
- ❑ **Inform Households of Valuable Community Resources**
 - ❑ **Food Banks**
 - ❑ **Free/Lost Clothing Resources**
 - ❑ **Free Books / tutoring**
 - ❑ **Internet Literacy**



- ❑ **Educate Pregnant Mothers**

- **Healthy Nutrition**
- **Counseling Services**

- ❑ **Educate Households**

- **Healthy Diet**
- **Free Yoga**
- **Physical Conditioning**



Pro Bono Attorney

□ Educate Household

- Tenant's Rights
 - Eviction Process
 - Help Negotiate with Landlord
 - Invoke Defenses
 - Habitability
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- Consumer's Rights
 - Never Sign a Contract (English) when Negotiated in their Native Language
 - Recognize Predatory Lending Practices and Notatio Fraud



cont'd



Pro Bono Attorney Cont'd

- ❑ **Eliminate Barriers to Employment**
 - **Unresolved Citations and Warrants**
 - **Unsealed Juvenile Probation Records or Criminal Records**

- ❑ **Evaluate Household's Eligibility for Other Public Counsel's Legal Services**



PC TANDEM

PC Tandem working with essential partners at Magnolia Center can provide a vast array of critical, holistic, preventative services and advocacy supports that can enable the Center to achieve its goal of stabilizing the health and long term vitality of an otherwise very vulnerable and transient community.

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

